

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 MC-02 ACDA-07
/101 W

-----181128Z 120954 /12

P R 181011Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7517
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T NAIROBI 4744

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SO, ET, KE, FT
SUBJECT: KENYA FINANCE MINISTER'S VIEWS ON HORN OF AFRICA

1. SUMMARY: FINANCE MINISTER MWAI KIBAKI, WHO IS AMONG
FRONT-RUNNERS TO SUCCEED KENYATTA AS PRESIDENT SOME DAY,
VOLUNTEERED WIDE-RANGING COMMENTS ON HORN OF AFRICA DURING
AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL ON APRIL 15. ESSENCE OF HIS
VIEWPOINT IS THAT U.S. SHOULD NOT WRITE OFF ETHIOPIA, AND
SHOULD PROVIDE SUFFICIENT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO AVOID
DRIVING ETHIOPIANS INTO ARMS OF SOVIETS. AT SAME TIME,
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KIBAKI WELCOMED LARGER U.S. ROLE IN ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN.
KIBAKI EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT THAT SOMALIA WOULD
SUCCEED IN EXTRICATING ITSELF FROM SOVIET CLUTCHES
EVEN IF IT WISHED TO DO SO. END SUMMARY.

2. KIBAKI SAID HE FELT KEY TO ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL
SOVIET INROADS IN ETHIOPIA WAS THEIR ABILITY TO HELP

THE ETHIOPIANS PRESERVE ACCESS TO DJIBOUTI. THEY COULD DO THIS BY RESTRAINING THE SOMALIS AS WELL AS BY PROVIDING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ETHIOPIA. WHILE SOMALIS HAD SHOWN SIGNS OF DISAFFECTION WITH SOVIETS, KIBAKI WONDERED WHETHER SOMALIA COULD PULL AWAY FROM MOSCOW, GIVEN HIGH LEVEL OF SOVIET PENETRATION OF SOMALI GOVERNMENT. EVEN IF SOMALIA SHIFTED ITS ALIGNMENT, KIBAKI THOUGHT SOVIETS COULD USE THEIR MILITARY LEVERAGE TO PREVENT SOMALIA FROM SEIZING DJIBOUTI.

2. KIBAKI ASSUMED THAT SOVIETS WISHED TO AVOID OPEN CONFLICT IN THE HORN, BUT THAT THEIR BASIC OBJECTIVE WAS TO CREATE PROLONGED TENSION IN NEXT FEW YEARS. HE FELT SOVIETS PROBABLY COULD NOT HAVE THEIR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO--IF THEY GAINED DOMINANT POSITION IN ETHIOPIA, THEY WOULD LOSE IT IN SOMALIA. HE RECOMMENDED THAT U.S. AVOID PLACING ETHIOPIA IN POSITION OF BEING MILITARILY DEPENT ON SOVIETS. IF SOVIETS BECAME ETHIOPIA'S MAIN MILITARY SUPPLIER, THEY WOULD "END UP WITH SIX RUSSIANS IN EVERY ETHIOPIAN MINISTRY."

4. APART FROM DJIBOUTI, KIBAKI FELT ETHIOPIA'S CHIEF CONCERN WAS ERITREA, BUT HE BELIEVED ADDIS GOVERNMENT COULD COPE WITH THIS PROBLEM IF NOT DISTRACTED BY TROUBLE ON SOMALI FRONT. PARENTHETICALLY HE COMMENTED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD IRAQ MAY SOON BECOME FIRST STATE TO RECOGNIZE INDEPENDENT ERITREA. AT ANOTHER POINT IN CONVERSATION, HE WELCOMED INCREASED U.S. ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN.

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5. COMMENT: KIBAKI IS CLEARLY RELUCTANT TO SEE MAJOR CHANGES IN POLITICAL STATUS QUO IN THE HORN. OTHER KENYANS HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE WILLING TO ENTERTAIN PROSPECT OF FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES; ONE MFA OFFICIAL EXPRESSED OPINION THAT IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN SOMALIA AND CONSERVATIVE ARABS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY OF KENYA-SOMALI RELATIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, GREATER U.S. ROLE IN SOMALIA WOULD BE SEEN AS BENEFICIAL TO KENYA SO LONG AS U.S. DID NOT ACTUALLY PROVIDE MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, MILITARY ASSISTANCE
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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